

Remarks:

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 7-12, and 17-20 remain in the application.

In item 2 on page 2 of the Office action, claims 1, 2, 7-12, and 17-20 have been rejected as being obvious over Wakino et al. (U.S. Patent No.5,181,864) under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

As will be explained below, it is believed that the claims were patentable over the cited art in their original form and the claims have, therefore, not been amended to overcome the references.

Before discussing the prior art in detail, it is believed that a brief review of the invention as claimed, would be helpful.

Claims 1 and 11 call for, inter alia:

"a plastic member including a material being a mixture of a plastic and a carbon powder, having conductive properties at voltages above a given working voltage range and having insulating properties at voltages in the given working voltage range".

The Wakino et al. reference discloses a plug-in connector, which has the characteristic of a varistor. A varistor is an active component, which has the construction of a capacitor.

Furthermore, the exemplary embodiments in Wakino et al. therefore also have electrodes (Figs. 1, 5, and 6; symbols 9 and 29). Even though in Fig. 3 an exemplary embodiment is illustrated without an additional electrode 9, it is expressly stated that this exemplary embodiment has less reliable electrical characteristics than the other exemplary embodiments (column 3, lines 7-12).

The reference does not show or suggest a plastic member including a material being a mixture of a plastic and a carbon powder, having conductive properties at voltages above a given working voltage range and having insulating properties at voltages in the given working voltage range, as recited in claims 1 and 11 of the instant application. It is the object of the instant invention to provide a plug-in connector of an electrical device, which has protection from electro-static discharges, which can easily be manufactured and does not require additional installation space. This object is solved with a passive component, i.e. with an insulator, the electrical conductivity of which is increased by the addition of carbon powder. Due to the increased conductivity of the plug-in material, the breakdown voltage of the material is

reduced. If a voltage appears which is greater than the breakdown voltage, due to an electrostatic discharge, the same is deflected.

The object of the invention of the instant application pertains to a simple passive insulator, the electrical conductivity of which is "adjusted" to a desired value by the addition of carbon powder. This is contrary to the object of the Wakino et al. reference, which requires the characteristics of an active component. Therefore, there is no motivation for a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the Wakino et al. reference with the material having the properties as disclosed in the invention of the instant application.

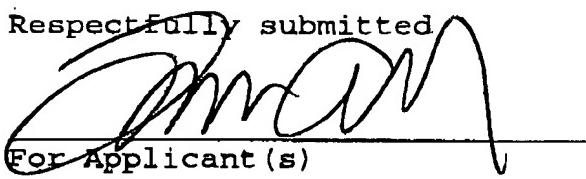
It is accordingly believed to be clear that none of the references, whether taken alone or in any combination, either show or suggest the features of claim 1. Claim 1 is, therefore, believed to be patentable over the art and since all of the dependent claims are ultimately dependent on claim 1, they are believed to be patentable as well.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1, 2, 7-12, and 17-20 are solicited.

In the event the Examiner should still find any of the claims to be unpatentable, counsel respectfully requests a telephone call so that, if possible, patentable language can be worked out.

Please charge any other fees which might be due with respect to Sections 1.16 and 1.17 to the Deposit Account of Lerner & Greenberg P.A., No. 12-1099.

Respectfully submitted,


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August 20, 2002

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